The Source(s) of Translation Theories as a Meta-theoretical Issue: A Popperian Perspective

By *WANG Jian* (University of Electronic Science and Technology of China, Chengdu, China) p.5

Abstract: Since the observations of and generalizations about translation practices constitute just one of the many potential sources for any theory of translation, the quest for the ultimate one source of translation theories often turns out to be merely a search for a "good" source with which to ground the construction of a translation theory. And since translation theories are necessarily conjectural and hypothetical, the chosen source, however "good" it may be, is never able to guarantee the ultimate validity of any theory of translation. That is why we should subject all such theoretical constructs to critical tests from time to time. Only by attaching importance to such validity tests could researchers constantly improve the theoretical models they have adopted.

Keywords: translation theory; conceptual source; observation; universal validity; hypothesis; critical rationalism

Methodology for Conducting Rhetoric Criticism of Translation

By *LIU Jia* (Sichuan International Studies University, Chongqing, China) p.14

Abstract: In conducting rhetorical criticism of a translation, we tend first to find out the ways it deviates from the original text concerned. An attempt to figure out the translator's intention underlying the deviations is usually followed by a probe into the rhetorical mechanisms employed to shape up the translated text, such as the terministic screen at the lexical level, the causal link embedded in the narrative, or the logic of binary opposition applied to the para-text. And an exploration of the rhetorical situation in which the act of translating takes place would shed further light on how the application of these mechanisms is related to the value-guided goals the translator means to accomplish. Going through this procedure of translation criticism would enable us to identify the general guidelines that govern translators' rhetorical behavior, and thus to deepen our understanding of why the target text deviates from the source text the way it does, and also of how values of translation are realized through the deviation.

Keywords: translational rhetoric criticism; rhetorical discourse; rhetorical operation; rhetorical situation; value of translation

Fusion and Dialogue among Multiple Horizons in "Effective History": A Hermeneutic Reflection on the Essence of Literary Translation

By *YI Xiang* (Civil Aviation University of China, Tianjin, China) & *LIU Junping* (Wuhan University, Wuhan, China) p.21

Abstract: As a core concept of Gadamer's Hermeneutics, "effective history" emphasizes both a historical distance that separates the subject's from the object's horizon in any attempt to understand and a historical dialectical unity between the two horizons in question. Applying the Gadamerian concept to translation studies, this article argues that literary translation could and should be seen as a generative and integrative dialogue among multiple horizons. To achieve an effective interpretation of the original text, the translator must go through three stages of understanding, i.e., the stage of experiential reading, of speculative understanding, and of open-ended communicating. Going through these stages is the only means by which a harmonious unity between the translator and the author can be achieved within the framework of an effective history.

Keywords: Gadamer; heumeneutics; effective history; literary translation; fusion of horizons; dialogue

Marx and Engels's Thoughts on Translation Aesthetics

By *YANG Mingxing* & *ZHENG Runyu* (Zhengzhou University, Zhengzhou, China) p.29

Abstract: Derivable from their major writings, Marx and Engles's thoughts on the aesthetics of translation cover both

literary and non-literary translation and are inspiring with the unique perspectives and rich connotations they offer. This article looks closely into relevant excerpts from the two thinkers' major works and, within an interdisciplinary framework, identifies the general principles, strategies, and methods the two thinkers have laid down for the aesthetics of translation. Concerning the aesthetics of literary translation, they lay emphasis on the translator conveying the spiritual essence of the source text, adopting a narrativized strategy and applying the method of flexibly switching between the generic forms of poetry and prose. As for non-literary translation, their aesthetic conception attaches more importance to communicating the source text's political messages than to reproducing its artistic or stylistic features, even though faithful reproduction of its means of expression, intertextual relations and rhetorical structure must also be taken seriously. For Marx and Engels, regardless of the type of the source texts to be rendered, the translator should strive to achieve a high degree of unity between artistic and political fidelity.

Keywords: Marx and Engels; translation; aesthetics; spiritual essence; re-presentation; narrativized translation; stylistic reproduction

Reshaping the Practice of Translation and Translation Education in the Era of Generative AI

By *REN Wen* (Beijing Foreign Studies University, Beijing, China) p.48

Abstract: The rapid developments in Generative AI (GenAI), along with the fast-expanding capabilities of large language models, are bringing profound changes to the field of translation practice and education, which has given rise to a significant topic for discussion and debate among translation scholars and practitioners. This paper explores GenAI's "human-like" characteristics, its impacts on the performance of translation, and the strengths and weaknesses of its current applications in the field. The author reflects on the reason and the manner for translation practice to adapt to the new technological breakthroughs by drawing on the semiotic theory of meaning and Habermas's theory of communicative action. Taking the human-AI relationships into full account, the paper calls for revamping the principles of action for translators and rethinking the education of translation in the GenAI era.

Keywords: GenAI; translation practice and education; human-AI interaction; triadic nature of meaning; Theory of Communicative Action

Replacing the Prescriptive Model with a Conscientious Paradigm: A Proposal for Sublimating Contemporary Studies of Translation Ethics

By *YANG Zhenyuan* (University of Electronic Science and Technology of China, Chengdu, China) p.92

Abstract: The prescriptive model for studying translation ethics may have been the currently received one in the field, yet the negative effects of its adoption should not be ignored. The model tends to indoctrinate the practitioners concerned by imposing a set of values on them from the outside, causing a passive mentality of *I-am-made-to-be-so*, alienating behavioral subjects from the ethical norms and, in the long run, impairing the sustainability of ethical practices due to an ever-growing sense of moral oppression it creates. This paper offers a remedy for these problems within the conceptual framework of the Confucian heart-mind theory by proposing that the prescriptive model be replaced with a conscientious one. The new model aims to awaken *benxin* or the original innocence aligned with the ultimate truth, which would result in the emanation of inner virtues and the establishment of an active mentality of *I-should-originally-be-so*. Ethical translation practice can thus be enacted in a non-oppressed manner and become sustainable. In turning ethical behavior in translation from an outward imposition to a self-actualization from within, the paradigm shift promises to bring about a cognitive leap and a sublimation of practice in the field of translation ethics studies.

Keywords: studies of translation ethics; Confucianism; the heart-mind theory; prescriptive model; conscientious model; sublimation